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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR FR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - GAZA DISENGAGEMENT, GWOT  
PARIS - WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

11. GAZA DISENGAGEMENT  
12. GWOT

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

PLANS FOR A HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF THE FRENCH GROUP DANONE BY PEPSICO IS ONE OF TODAY'S TOP STORIES AND DOMINATES THE ECONOMIC DAILIES. DANONE IS PORTRAYED AS "PERFECT PREY" AND ECONOMIC LA TRIBUNE POINTS OUT THAT "DANONE'S EMPLOYEES HAVE CAUSE TO BE WORRIED BECAUSE AMERICAN EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH WHAT IS APPLIED IN FRANCE."

OTHER HEADLINES ALSO DEAL WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES RANGING FROM THE DROUGHT, WHICH IS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF EUROPE TO THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION TO REINSTATE THE WHIT MONDAY HOLIDAY.

THE VISIT TO PARIS OF ANGELA MERKEL, CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER IN GERMANY, IS WIDELY REPORTED. HER MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT CHIRAC, PRIME MINISTER DE VILLEPIN AND INTERIOR MINISTER SARKOZY ARE COMMENTED WITH COMMENTATORS NOTING THAT HER OUTLOOK FOR THE FRANCO-GERMAN COUPLE WITH REGARD TO THE REST OF THE EU IS MOST IN SYNC WITH SARKOZY AND "RUBS [CHIRAC] THE WRONG WAY" ACCORDING TO RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO.

THE PROTESTS AGAINST THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA ARE REPORTED IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. (SEE PART C)

THE LONDON BOMBINGS CONTINUE TO BE ANALYZED IN THE FRENCH PRESS AND LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION NOTES THAT MUSLIM YOUTH IN LONDON ARE WEARY OF BEING CASTIGATED. ONE MUSLIM YOUTH INTERVIEWED IN LIBERATION STATES "THE WAR ON TERRORISM IS TURNING INTO A WAR ON ISLAM."

IN LIGHT OF THE SIGNS THAT SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THE LONDON BOMBINGS WERE PLANNED IN PAKISTAN, POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE PARISIEN INTERVIEWS BERNARD-HENRI LEVY AUTHOR OF A BOOK ON DANIEL PEARL, WHO ARGUES THAT "PAKISTAN IS THE HEART OF THE TERRORIST GALAXY. EVERY TIME, OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, THAT PAKISTAN HAS TURNED OVER A MEMBER OF AL QAEDA TO THE AMERICANS IT WAS BECAUSE IT WANTED SOMETHING (MONEY, FI16S.), OR IT WAS BECAUSE IT HAD SOMETHING TO MAKE UP FOR (A HOSTILE VOTE AT THE UNSC.) PAKISTAN HANDS OVER ITS TERRORISTS A FEW AT A TIME. AND WHEN THE TIME COMES IT WILL TURN BEN LADEN IN. AMERICA MAY BE MASTER OF THE WORLD, BUT PAKISTAN IS THE MASTER OF THE GAME."

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE, FOR ITS PART, PUTS FORWARD THAT IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR: "EUROPE IS DIVIDED WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR." (SEE PART C)

COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE ANALYZES THE OUTCOME OF THE 4TH DONORS CONFERENCE FOR IRAQ AND SUGGESTS THAT: "THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT HAS BEEN HALTED DUE TO VIOLENCE AND CORRUPTION."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

GAZA DISENGAGEMENT

"FIGHTING RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM"

JULES CLAUMWAERT IN REGIONAL DAILY NORD LAIR (07/20) "THE ONLY WAY TO FIGHT RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM IS TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST. WHAT CAN EUROPE DO? IT CANNOT STAND BY PROVIDING ONLY MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, SECURING TRADE TIES AND LETTING THE U.S. HAVE THE MONOPOLY OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE. BUT IN ORDER TO DO THIS EUROPE WILL NEED TO FACE UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES."

GWOT

"JUSTICE AND TERROR"

THE UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE (07/20): "TO WHAT EXTENT CAN WE CURB INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM IN ORDER TO MAKE THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM MORE EFFECTIVE?. NO COUNTRY SEEKS TO HAVE FOUND THE SOLUTION TO DO AWAY WITH TERRORISM, BUT THE PAINSTAKING CARE THAT DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES TAKE TO PROTECT

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM IS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN A WAR AGAINST THOSE WHOSE ONLY LANGUAGE IS VIOLENCE AND MURDER."

"TERRORISM IN EUROPE"

BRUNO LOUSTALAN IN REGIONAL L'ECLAIR DES PYRENEES (07/20):  
"TOMORROW BOMBS COULD EXPLODE IN THE SUBWAY IN FRANCE, IN GERMANY, IN ITALY. NO BORDERS CAN PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING. BUT THIS WAR, AND IT IS INDEED A WAR, HAS CERTAIN RULES THAT ARE BASED ON A RESPECT FOR ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY: INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. IN THE MONTHS TO COME IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR EUROPE TO BE UNITED AND PRESENT A COMMON FRONT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM NOTWITHSTANDING NATIONAL OR PARTISAN INTERESTS. OTHERWISE WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE MASTERMINDS BEHIND THE LONDON BOMBINGS WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION." STAPLETON